

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Public Health	(2) MEETING DATE 9/20/2016	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Penny Borenstein / 781-5519	
(4) SUBJECT Request for approval to apply for a Dental Transformation Initiative grant from the California Department of Health Care Services for a four-year period (calendar years 2017-2020) in the estimated total amount of \$2.2 million for children's dental access and treatment. All Districts.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board approve a request to apply for a Dental Transformation Initiative grant from the California Department of Health Care Services for a four-year period (calendar years 2017-2020) in the estimated total amount of \$2.2 million for children's dental access and treatment.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) Medi-Cal grant funds	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$275,000	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$550,000 (FY 2017-18 through FY 2019-20) \$275,000 (FY 2020-21)	(9) BUDGETED? N/A
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. ____) <input type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. ____)			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: N/A <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5 Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A Date: _____	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW Morgan Torell			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts			

County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jeff Hamm, Health Agency Director
Penny Borenstein, MD, Health Officer/Public Health Administrator

DATE: 9/20/2016

SUBJECT: Request for approval to apply for a Dental Transformation Initiative grant from the California Department of Health Care Services for a four-year period (calendar years 2017-2020) in the estimated total amount of \$2.2 million for children's dental access and treatment. All Districts.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board approve a request to apply for a Dental Transformation Initiative grant from the California Department of Health Care Services for a four-year period (calendar years 2017-2020) in the estimated total amount of \$2.2 million for children's dental access and treatment.

DISCUSSION

The federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approves waivers of statutory Medicaid requirements from time to time, permitting deviation from approved State Medicaid plans and expenditure authorities. California's Medicaid plan is called Medi-Cal. California's most recent 1115 Waiver Renewal, called Medi-Cal 2020, was approved by CMS on December 30, 2015, and is effective through December 31, 2020. Medi-Cal 2020 has four major components which includes a Dental Transformation Initiative (DTI). The DTI provides direct incentives to providers through programs that promote overall children's utilization of preventive services and oral health disease management, expands prevention and risk assessment models, and increases dental continuity of care. There are additional waiver programs, such as the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System, for which your Board approved participation by the Health Agency on August 9, 2016.

The Dental Transformation Initiative, or DTI, represents a mechanism to improve dental health for Medi-Cal children by focusing on high-value care, improved access, and utilization of performance measures to drive delivery system reform. The DTI has four domains – Domain 1 aims to increase the statewide proportion of children under age 20 enrolled in Medi-Cal who receive preventive dental services in a given year; Domain 2 targets creation of pre-defined treatment plans for children based upon a dental risk assessment; Domain 3 is aimed at improving continuity of care; Domain 4 addresses the aforementioned areas through pilot programs aimed at specific demographics. Domains 1-3 will offer incentive payments to dental providers in pilot counties pre-designated by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) for performing adequately in the targeted domain goal. San Luis Obispo County has been selected for participation in Domain 3 and community dental practices will be able to apply for incentive payments if they can establish adequate performance in continuity of care of Medi-Cal patients over each one year interval.

Domain 4, which is titled the Local Dental Pilot Projects, or LDPP, is the subject of this request to apply for a competitive grant that is open to all counties. LDPP participation requires applicants to propose pilot projects which address one or more of the other three domains through alternative programs, potentially using strategies focused on rural areas, including local case management initiatives and education partnerships. Upon approval and successful completion of the pilots, providers will be entitled to receive proposed incentive payments.

The San Luis Obispo County LDPP draft proposal will put forward five distinct pilot projects intended to build a comprehensive, geographically-distributed continuum of care, with the overarching goals of improving access to dental care and decreasing dental disease among the county's highest risk children. These pilot projects are briefly described as follows:

- Virtual Dental Home Pilot – a program developed by the University of the Pacific’s dental school which would be implemented at Shandon Elementary School. Shandon has been identified as a high need community wherein children will receive basic care from a licensed dental hygienist at the school site to include preventive care, dental assessment with x-rays, and temporary restorations. The program dentist reviews patient records and x-rays and makes treatment recommendations if indicated. The concept is to use lower cost, more available, mid-level dental care providers to extend care outside the four walls of a dental clinic at maximum capacity. The model also affords the family easier access to care in circumstances of transportation or scheduling challenges. Tolosa Children’s Dental Center is prepared to staff the project and provide the clinical care.
- Private Dental Care for Medi-Cal Children – this project seeks to identify 10 private practice dentists who each agree to see up to 10 new patients per month for a year (120 new patients per year). Working with the Central Coast Dental Society, the Oral Health Program Manager has already received commitments to participate from five dentists. Participating dentists must enroll as a Denti-Cal provider and will be able to bill for the care provided. In addition, dentists will be eligible to receive incentive pay from the DTI grant, which will make up the difference between the actual cost of care and Denti-Cal reimbursement rates. Support for the dental practices also will be provided through assistance with Denti-Cal enrollment, billing, referring the right mix of pre-screened patients, and ensuring that patients keep their appointments.
- Community Health Centers (CHC) Subcontracts with Local Dentists – the goal is to recruit an additional five community dentists who are willing to act as sub-contractors in their own offices under CHC’s Federally-Qualified Health Center (FQHC) license. FQHC status confers a higher reimbursement rate than Denti-Cal fee for service, such that a contractual arrangement with a FQHC makes the care of Denti-Cal patients fiscally viable. Dentists who work in areas where there are limited or no safety net providers (e.g., Central County and North Coast) will be prioritized for recruitment. Such an arrangement has been legally sanctioned by the federal Bureau of Primary Health Care and is in practice today throughout the United States. CHC has agreed to enter into such contracts.
- Outreach, Education and Screenings at Low-Income Housing Sites - the Oral Health Program Manager will provide dental screening, hygiene education, fluoride applications, and referrals to a dental care home, at low-income housing sites throughout the county. Mobile equipment will be set up at selected sites, including the Paso Housing Authority, Peoples’ Self-Help Housing, and the Housing Authority of San Luis Obispo. These entities have confirmed their participation.
- Licensing Registered Dental Assistants - the last pilot project will work on increasing the number of Registered Dental Assistants (RDAs) locally. Dental Assistants (DAs) can provide chairside assistance to a licensed dentist once certified as having graduated from an accredited DA program. The closest such program is at the Alan Hancock Community College in Santa Maria. Many graduates readily find jobs in private dental practices, due to the high demand, and forego taking the next step of becoming a RDA. Dental professionals have reported that many DAs opt out of the RDA licensure due to the approximate \$600 testing and board registration fee. The benefit of having RDAs over DAs is that there are certain procedures, such as tooth polishing, that RDAs may perform, thereby freeing up capacity of dental hygienists or dentists. This pilot project will offer scholarships to graduating dental assistants to complete their licensed registration. Under this pilot, Oral Health Program staff and Coalition members will continue to work with Cuesta College to see if a development of local DA program is feasible.

In order to administratively support all five of these proposed LDPPs, funding for three full-time limited-term staff positions, a case manager (likely a Health Education Specialist), an administrative services officer (ASO), and an Accountant will be requested in the grant application.

The case manager will be dedicated to assisting parents in obtaining services and keeping appointments with dental providers who have agreed to participate in one or more of the pilot projects. A frequently stated reason by private dentists for not enrolling in Denti-Cal is the loss of productivity and revenue that occurs when patients do not show for scheduled appointments. Many say “no-shows” are an even greater burden on the practice than low reimbursement rates. The case manager will assist families in setting appointments with the best-suited program, providing appointment reminders, arranging transportation to dental appointments and securing child care, if necessary.

The ASO will work with each project to develop and train dental staff on data collection forms, and collect and submit required monthly data reports to the Department of Health Care Services. The ASO will also serve as a local resource for billing assistance. The ASO will collaborate on project implementation with Shandon Elementary School Administration, the University of the Pacific and the Tolosa Children's Dental Center, as well as with low-income housing programs.

The Accountant position will oversee the budget and subcontracts, will handle all incentive or scholarship payments to participating private practices and dental assistants, respectively, and will be responsible for fiscal reports to the State.

The incumbent Oral Health Program Manager will work with individual dentists and the Central Coast Dental Society to enlist additional dentists to participate in a LDPP. He will also communicate directly with dentists about pre-screened patients and referrals as necessary. As part of current duties to coordinate and advance the county's oral health system of care, he will provide general oversight of the entire grant and will continue to engage the Oral Health Coalition membership and partner organizations in the implementation of the varying components.

The application is due to DHCS on September 30, 2016. The anticipated date of award notice is no later than December 30, 2016, with an expectation of program implementation to begin in January 2017. This application may be funded in whole or in part, and the specific implementation plans and details will likely be modified in collaboration with DHCS. If selected to be a participating county, a full scope of work and associated contract(s) will be developed and brought to your Board for further discussion and approval.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

Planning and preparation for the grant application has involved several partners including First 5 of San Luis Obispo County, Tolosa Children's Dental Center, the University of the Pacific School of Dentistry, Shandon Joint Unified School District, Community Health Centers of the Central Coast, and the Central Coast Dental Society. Paso Housing Authority, Peoples' Self-Help Housing, and the Housing Authority of San Luis Obispo have voiced interest in participating. The County's Oral Health Coalition and the Health Commission have expressed support for the Public Health Department's effort to advance the grant application.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

If funded, Public Health will receive unanticipated revenue through a State grant of approximately \$2.2 million in total, or about \$550,000 per year for a four-year period (calendar years 2017-2020) commencing with award notification, estimated to occur in late 2016. Approximately half of the grant funding will be maintained by the County to cover staff and ancillary costs; the remainder will be contracted out to partners for project implementation.

If awarded, this grant will not result in an increase in the Department's adopted level of General Fund support. There is no local match and all additional staff costs will be fully funded by the grant.

RESULTS

Specific results for each local dental pilot project and overall grant implementation will be guided by grant requirements. Metrics, at a minimum, will include the number of children served by each project, the number of participating dentists, the number of newly licensed RDAs, and the number of occasions that mobile services are provided at low-income housing sites. Outcome measures will be further developed to determine impact on percentage of children receiving dental care in accordance with recommended periodicity and the rate of untreated dental disease. Taken together, the LDPPs will contribute to the County's vision of a healthy community.